'Rain alert' System

2718. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 'Rain Alert' system has been introduced in all the trains passing through Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether this proposal has also been introduced in the other parts of the country;

(d) by when it is likely to be introduced; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (e) No, Sir. There is no system with nomenclature as 'Rain Alert' for the trains passing through the state of Tamil Nadu or elsewhere. However, there is well laid down procedure for precautions to be taken in case of heavy rains, floods, monsoons etc. On receipt of weather warnings from the Meteorological Department, precautionary steps like introduction of mobile patrolling/stationary watchmen on stretches/sections considered vlunerable are taken. In case any danger to Railway safety is apprehended, the patrolmen/watchmen take necessary steps to warn the train driver of approaching train by displaying signals or using detonators put on track. The system is uniformly followed on all the Zonal Railways.

Promotion to outstanding sportspersons

2719. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Board has not granted promotion or even increment to its outstanding sportsmen and sportswomen;

(b) if so, the details of cases, pending with his Ministry;

(c) the reasons for delay; and

(d) the steps taken to grant promotions or increments to the outstanding sportspersons serving the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Railway Board has granted promotions and increments to its outstanding sportsmen and sportswomen.

(b) At present, 44 cases of Out-of-Turn promotion on sports account are under process with this Ministry. No case of grant of increment is reported pending with this Ministry.

(c) Shortage in vacancies, time consumed in verification of sports and educational certificate, non-feasibility in relaxation of norms with reference to some exceptional cases, are the general reasons for delay in such cases.

(d) For granting Out-of-Turn promotion and additional increments on sports account, there are fixed norms. Cases of Out-of-Turn promotions and additional increments to the sportspersons are considered and granted as and when they become eligible and apply for the same.

Mumbai Urban Transport Project

2720. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra had initiated a Mumbai Urban Transport Project for improvement of traffic and transportation conditions in Mumbai with the help of World Bank aid;

(b) if so, the details of the infrastructure including the rail component to the created and improved, the cost thereof, how the cost is to be shared and the nature and extent of World Bank and Central assistance proposed or secured for the purpose; and

(c) what stages of approval/clearance the matter has been through and the schedule for implementation thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. The improvement of traffic and transportation in Mumbai has been taken up under Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP). The